



Currents

An e-newsletter from Chesterfield County, Va., government



County Recognized for Economic Development

Economic Development is important in Chesterfield County, as evidenced by that fact that, in 2012, expansions and new operations were announced that will create more than 300 jobs ranging from data management to food manufacturing operations.

On May 15, the Richmond Real Estate Group recognized Chesterfield County's accomplishments in economic development at its annual Impact Award presentation and reception. The RREG board selected the county based on the numerous successful projects during the past year including:

- The new Capital One data center that will be a \$175 million investment and create 50 jobs.
- Sabra Dipping Co., which primarily produces hummus, a Mediterranean dip made from chickpeas, plans to expand production at its county plant. Sabra also announced plans to create a new "Center of Excellence" research and development facility. The 50 percent expansion in production and new research facility will cost a combined \$28 million and create 90 new jobs.
- Uptown Alley opened in December. This \$21 million, 57,000-square-foot entertainment facility includes 38 lanes of bowling, a game arcade, pool tables and an upscale casual restaurant. The complex is expected to generate about \$8 million a year in taxable sales. One-hundred-forty new jobs

Spring 2013

Board of Supervisors

Bermuda District

Dorothy Jaeckle
Chairman

Matoaca District

Steve A. Elswick
Vice Chairman

Midlothian District

Daniel A. Gecker

Dale District

James "Jim" Holland

Clover Hill District

Art Warren

Board of Supervisors and District Meetings

were created as a result of the project.

Two other award finalists from the county were recognized: The Aquatics Center, a 54,000 square foot recreational facility, and the Amazon Fulfillment Center, a one million-square-foot building.

Other big announcements in 2012 included an expansion at Honeywell, an advanced fibers manufacturer, which will cost \$27.5 million and create 50 jobs; a new, expanded facility for Marten Transport, creating 50 jobs with an investment of \$7 million; a new BGB Technology manufacturing facility, 15 jobs and a \$2.1 million investment; a new Cranemasters railroad services facility, 12 new jobs and a \$1.7 million investment; and a new Sonoco Shoosmith Recycling waste recovery facility, which cost \$2.5 million and created 15 jobs. Maruchan, one of the country's top manufacturers of the college student staple, Ramen noodles, also is expanding its facility, which will create 50 new jobs with an investment of \$30 million.

Chesterfield County also celebrated the opening of a large new Kroger at Stonebridge, along with additional retail spaces, the announcement of a new 600-apartment development at Stonebridge and an increase in sports tourism. More than 60,000 out-of-town visitors flocked to the area for sports events, including the 2012 Capital Cup, a three-day women's collegiate lacrosse championship.

These efforts are part of the department's ongoing work to attract, expand and retain businesses in a wide variety of markets, from offices and manufacturing operations to retail and information technology. For more information about Chesterfield Economic Development, visit chesterfieldbusiness.com.

Countywide News

Upcoming Board of Supervisors' Meetings

The next [Board of Supervisors' meetings](#) will be held on June 26, July 17 and Aug. 28. Board meetings take place in the Public Meeting Room, 10001 Iron Bridge Road. Sessions typically begin at 3 p.m., break at 5 p.m., and resume at 6:30 p.m.

Cash Proffers

On May 22, the Board of Supervisors was presented with information about the county's cash proffer program, including the per-dwelling unit cash proffer amount and circumstances under which the board could extend reductions in the per-unit cash proffer amount. Cash proffers apply to new rezoning requests and are

Countywide News

Business News

Comprehensive Plan

County Calendar of Events

County Employment Opportunities

payments from developers who build new homes. The payments are designed to offset the capital costs that result from the new homes, such as the costs for building schools and roads. A recent staff report suggested that the board amend its cash proffer policy to be more flexible and reduce the cash proffer amount under certain circumstances, including instances where a developer offers infrastructure improvements in lieu of cash, where development would revitalize an area, where developers would limit the number of bedrooms and where design standards of the proposed development are enhanced above county standards and area norms. At the end of the presentation, the board raised some key questions and instructed staff to review the program and recommend changes, paying specific attention to revitalization areas, quality standards, and the specific impact of the proposed development based on housing size, location and the corresponding need for capital facilities. The board set the maximum cash proffer amount for fiscal 2014 at the previous year's maximum amount of \$18,966. The board also instructed staff to bring back a recommendation to address capping the cash proffer amount so that any payment would not exceed the board's maximum cash proffer amount.

Capital Improvement Program

Harrowgate fire station and Reams-Gordon library, which are Capital Improvement Program projects, were approved at the May 8 Board of Supervisors meeting. The CIP funds pay for the construction or renovation of projects and cannot be used for operating expenses for the county. The projects have been on the slate of bonds approved during the 2004 bond referendum and are the last of a few projects yet to be built.

[For more Countywide News, click here.](#)

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Business News

Sabra Dipping Company adding jobs

Sabra Dipping Co. is nearly doubling the size of its manufacturing plant in an \$86 million expansion that will add about 117,000 square feet to its existing facility and create 140 more jobs. The expansion will grow the facility from its current 131,000 square feet, and it will enable it to increase production of its signature hummus from 6,000 tons per month to 10,000 tons and creates space for adding product lines. The company plans to complete work by the middle of next year. The 140 new employees will be hired during the next three years, bringing the total workforce to about 500. The expansion will include space for manufacturing, as well as office and warehouse space. In addition to the plant expansion, Sabra has just

opened an 18,000-square-foot research and development facility.

Call center contract renewed

The federal Department of Health and Human Services has renewed the contract for a call center in the county. The call center employs about 1,000 workers. General Dynamics Information Technology was awarded the 10-year center operations contract from the federal department's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The contract is in one-year increments, renewable annually. Health and Human Services has so far provided \$28.2 million transition-period funding, the company said. The center is located in the Rivers Bend Industrial Park.

For more Business News, [click here](#).

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County Programs and Services

AAA Rating

International ratings agency Standard & Poor's has affirmed the Chesterfield County Utilities Department's AAA bond rating. The department is one of only a handful of water and wastewater utilities in the nation to have achieved this rating from each of the three top rating services, Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Services and Standard & Poor's. This rating recognizes Utilities' leadership and numerous financial achievements, including affordable rates and a solid financial position.

New playground

KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit dedicated to bringing play to kids who need it the most, is partnering with CarMax, Fit4Kids and Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation to build a playground at Bensley Park on Friday, June 7. This is the inaugural build for KaBOOM! and CarMax, who are partnering to build 30 playgrounds throughout the country. Playgrounds will be built in both Chesterfield County and in Los Angeles on the same day.

Grass Roots

The Grass Roots program offers residents the chance to learn about and remedy problems specific to their yards. The program involves a home visit by a trained master gardener who will measure the lawn, take a soil sample, and provide personalized recommendations based on a detailed site evaluation. The program fee is \$25 and covers the cost of supplies, materials and one soil test. Additional soil samples are \$11 each. The Grass Roots program is available through June, and is limited to the first 400 residents to apply. For more information, visit the [website](#) or call 804-751-4401.



For more County Programs and Services, [click here.](#)

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Public Safety News

Preventing DUIs

Forty-seven percent of 18- to 24-year-olds in Chesterfield County who were surveyed in 2012 believed that someone driving under the influence would not be stopped by law enforcement, according a Substance Abuse Free Environment Inc. survey. With additional grant funding, SAFE, the substance-abuse-prevention coalition serving Chesterfield County, along with Chesterfield County Police and Virginia State Police, plan to change that perception this summer through increased enforcement along with a three-pronged media campaign titled: "When You DUI, Drinks Cost More Than You Think!" SAFE has entered into Phase II of a grant with Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Center for School-Community Collaboration at Virginia Commonwealth University, to receive \$170,150 this year to implement various strategies to help reduce alcohol-related crashes among 18- to 24-year-olds. Funding will provide for increased law-enforcement patrols by Virginia State Police. In addition, SAFE is running a mass-media campaign that includes television and radio commercials and billboards in English and Spanish. This campaign will warn of the costly consequences of a DUI conviction. The goal is to raise the awareness of motorists so that they will realize, "When You DUI, Drinks Cost More than You Think!" Those who are interested in learning more may email [Regina Whitsett](#) or call 804-694-7794.

Cadet Safety Camp

County public-safety departments are cooperating to host a Cadet Safety Camp June 18-19, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., to provide youths a safe and fun learning experience focusing on respect, responsibility and teamwork. Participation is aimed at rising seventh- and eighth-graders who are members of the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. Training topics will include: home fire safety, search and rescue, emergency preparedness, basic first aid and team building. Space is limited to 50 participants. The cost is \$25 per participant. For more information, including a downloadable camp registration form, visit [the website](#) or call 804-796-7159.

For more Public Safety News, [click here.](#)

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Things to Do

Farmers Market

A farmers market, hosted by C-Fit, the county's employee wellness program, will be held from June 5-Sept. 25 in the Government Center Complex. The Chesterfield County Farmers Market will be open on Wednesdays, 3-6 p.m., on Mimms Loop, between Kraus and Lori roads. Local vendors will have produce, jams, sorbets, goat's milk products, prepared foods, herbs, kettle corn and much more. Cash is preferred. For more information, like us on [Facebook.com/chesterfieldva](https://www.facebook.com/chesterfieldva) or visit chesterfield.gov.

A Midsummer Night's Dream Festival

The Chesterfield County Public Library summer reading program will kick off on Saturday, June 15, with A Midsummer Night's Dream Festival from 5 until 8 p.m. at the Central Library, 9501 Lori Road. Attendees may dress as their favorite fairy, princess, knight, lord or lady and enjoy a magical evening. Sign up for the summer reading program and kick off the season with games, activities for kids and more. Entertainment will include juggler Jonathan Austin, magician and balloon artist Mike Klee, the Chesterfield Children's Theatre performing songs from "The Wiz," woodcrafting with The Home Depot and live owls and other Virginia wildlife. For more information, call 748-1603.



Blue Star Museums

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, in partnership with Chesterfield County, announces the launch of Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families and more than 1,300 museums across America, to offer free admission to all active-duty military personnel and their families through Labor Day. Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. [Click here](#) for the complete list of participating museums. The Chesterfield County Museum, located at 6813 Mimms Loop, is open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The suggested donation is \$2 for the museum and \$1 for the exhibit at the 1892 Historic Jail. For more information, call 768-7311. Magnolia Grange, an 1822 restored plantation house, also will participate in the Blue Star Museum program and is open the same hours. Admission for Magnolia Grange is \$5/adult; \$4/seniors and \$3/students. For more information, visit www.chesterfieldhistory.com or call 804-796-7121.

For more Things to Do, [click here](#).
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